IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-3 (Canceled)

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The microcontact structure according to Claim 5 ~~1 further comprising a minimizing means~~ wherein said reducing means is selected from the group consisting of folding, nesting and rolling ~~wherein the spatial extent of the microcontact structure is capable of being minimized during the surgical transportation to the implant point~~.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): An implantable microcontact structure for neuroprostheses, said microcontact structure capable of assuming at least two desired positions for the purposes of mechanical anchorage, said desired positions comprising a basic position and an operating position, said structure comprising:

at least one contact element, formed on at least one two-dimensional carrier wherein the carrier has at least two regions that are movable relative to one another, wherein said microcontact structure has a spatial extent and wherein said spatial extent is capable of being reduced by a reducing means prior to surgical transportation to an implant point, said reducing means comprising a compacting means for compacting the regions that are movable relative to one another;

a shape modifying means wherein the desired positions of the microcontact structure can be fixed, interchanged or altered by external action before implantation, during a surgical intervention or by external signals without surgical intervention; and,

~~The microcontact structure according to Claim 1 further comprising~~ a releasing means wherein said compacting can be released by said releasing means after the surgical transportation.

Claim 6 (Previously Amended): The microcontact structure according to Claim 5 wherein said compacting places the microcontact structure in a compact state, and said microcontact structure further comprises a locking means for locking said microcontact structure in the compact state.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The microcontact structure according to Claim 6 further comprising two contiguous regions, at least one junction area between said contiguous regions and a lock releasing means, said lock releasing means permitting releasing forces at said at least one junction to thereby open the microcontact structure out of the compact state.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The microcontact structure according to Claim 7 wherein the releasing forces are selected from the group consisting of spring forces, molecular conformation changes, pneumatic forces, hydraulic forces and electromagnetic forces.

Claims 9-10 (Canceled)

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): An implantable microcontact structure for neuroprostheses, said microcontact structure capable of assuming at least two desired

positions for the purposes of mechanical anchorage, said desired positions comprising a basic position and an operating position, said structure comprising:

at least one contact element, and

a shape modifying means wherein the desired positions of the microcontact structure can be fixed, interchanged or altered by external action before implantation, during a surgical intervention or by external signals without surgical intervention;

wherein the shape modifying means is utilized to attain a mechanical anchorage and takes place in a measured manner in a time-controlled sequence with respect to movement and force as a result of the external action; and,

~~The microcontact structure according to Claim 9~~ wherein said shape modifying means ~~comprises~~ is selected from the group consisting of a surgical device means ~~or~~ and a transmitting means for transmitting signals to the microcontact structure.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): An implantable microcontact structure for neuroprostheses, said microcontact structure capable of assuming at least two desired positions for the purposes of mechanical anchorage, said desired positions comprising a basic position and an operating position, said structure comprising:

at least one contact element, and

a shape modifying means wherein the desired positions of the microcontact structure can be fixed, interchanged or altered by external action before implantation, during a surgical intervention or by external signals without surgical intervention;

wherein said shape modifying means is utilized to improve an electrical contact or an active connection with nerve tissue and takes place in a measured manner in a time-

controlled sequence with respect to movement and force as a result of an external action; and,

~~The microcontact structure according to Claim 10~~ wherein said shape modifying means ~~comprises~~ is selected from the group consisting of a surgical device means ~~or~~ and a transmitting means for transmitting signals to the microcontact structure~~, in particular electromagnetic signals, light or ultrasound~~.

Claim 13 (Previously Amended): The microcontact structure according to Claim 11 wherein the signals are selected from the group consisting of electromagnetic signals, light and ultrasound.

Claim 14 (Previously Amended): The microcontact structure according to Claim 12 wherein the signals are selected from the group consisting of electromagnetic signals, light and ultrasound.

Claim 15 (Canceled)

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): Method for using the microcontact structure according to claim 12 ~~2~~ in a surgical procedure, said procedure selected from the group consisting of retinal implantation for a retina implant, intracranial implantation on nerve tissue inside the skull, spinal implantation on nerve tissue of the spinal cord and its surroundings, and implantation on peripheral nerves; said method comprising the step of surgically implanting said microcontact structure.